



**Testimony  
Kathryn Dube  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Public Health Committee  
March 17, 2014**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB 5528 - AN ACT CONCERNING ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.**

This bill, which would seek to modernize Connecticut's public health law to include the nationally recognized framework of 10 essential services of public health, is an important step in the process of continuous improvement in our local communities.

Currently local health departments throughout the state are operating under outdated regulations. By updating these critical guidelines, local health departments are better positioned to ensure a safe and healthy community.

This new framework will:

- (1) Explain what public health is
- (2) Clarify the role of public health within the larger health care system
- (3) Provide accountability by linking public health performance to health outcomes.

In addition to updating the current public health laws, this new framework will provide for greater access to federal funding. At a time when many local budgets are facing deficits, alternative funding methods are key to ensuring a strong and effective public health system in our state's local communities.

COST urges your support of this bill.